

October 11th, 2017

Dear Director Mouritsen:

I hereby file this Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's ("BLM") planned December 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale and the programmatic Final Environmental Assessment for oil and gas leasing in the Wayne National Forest, Marietta Unit of the Athens Ranger District, Monroe County, Ohio --5 Parcels covering 350.06 acres available for lease.

ES-001 Parcel Info View on Map	Monroe County, OH T2N, R4W, Ohio River Survey Meridian Sec. 25: W2SE, E2SESW, E2NESW, SESENW, NESW Acres: 94.72	Opening bid: \$2/acre	Open for bidding: 12/14/17 7:00 AM CST
ES-002 Parcel Info View on Map	Monroe County, OH T2N, R4W, Ohio River Survey Meridian Sec. 33 NWNE Acres: 40.13	Opening bid: \$2/acre	Open for bidding: 12/14/17 7:02 AM CST
ES-003 Parcel Info View on Map	Monroe County, OH T2N, R4W, Ohio River Survey Meridian Sec. 34: NESE, NESESE Acres: 50.16	Opening bid: \$2/acre	Open for bidding: 12/14/17 7:04 AM CST
ES-004 Parcel Info View on Map	Monroe County, OH T3N, R5W, Ohio River Survey Meridian Sec. 3: Pt. SE Acres: 115.34	Opening bid: \$2/acre	Open for bidding: 12/14/17 7:06 AM CST
ES-005 Parcel Info View on Map	Monroe County, OH T3N, R5W, Ohio River Survey Meridian Sec. 3: Pt. S2NE, Pt. N2SE Acres: 49.71	Opening bid: \$2/acre	Open for bidding: 12/14/17 7:07 AM CST

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PLEASE DO NOT PUBLISH MY ADDRESS PUBLICLY

I. Protesting Party: Contact Information and Interests

This Protest is filed on behalf of:

Elizabeth Bolen
134 E. Royal Forest Blvd.
Columbus, Ohio 43214

II. Statement of Reasons as to Why the Proposed Lease Sale Is Unlawful:

BLM's proposed decision to lease the parcels listed above is substantively and procedurally flawed for the reasons discussed below:

1. A full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was not completed.
2. The Environmental Assessment (EA) that was completed was based on outdated forest laws that were created before horizontal hydraulic fracturing existed in the area. Rushing a decision to allow horizontal fracking in a National Forest, without thoughtful consideration, may have unforeseen negative impacts.
3. There was one public meeting held by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Marietta, Ohio before the 2016-2017 auctions began. Many residents did not know about this meeting and did not have a chance to make their opinions heard.
4. In his recent executive order to roll back the Clean Power Plan, President Trump will seek to overturn regulations on hydraulic fracturing and methane emissions from oil and natural gas wells on federal lands. This recent order sets up potentially devastating effects on our climate as methane is 86 times more heat sequestering than Carbon Dioxide, over a 20-year period of time.
5. Exposure to Methane can cause poisoning symptoms such as: headaches, heart palpitations, cognitive impairment (poor judgement, memory loss), dizziness, loss of motor coordination, flu-like symptoms (mental uneasiness, lethargy, discomfort), asphyxiation, and death. Allowing Methane leaks on frack wells in and around the Wayne National Forest puts families and communities who live nearby at risk.
6. Accidents involving oil and gas extraction can be extremely dangerous and have already happened near the parcels included in this auction, including the Monroe Co: Statoil Well Pad Fire, June 28-29, 2014 and the Sardis, OH-Gas Leak: December 13, 2014:
7. The truck traffic needed to deliver water to a single fracking well causes as much damage to local roads as nearly 3.5 million car trips. Pennsylvania estimated in 2010 that \$265 million would be needed to repair damaged roads in the Marcellus Shale region.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Bolen